

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NEA-10 ACDA-05 MC-02 AID-05 /101 W

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P 201700Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4354

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 0614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR BH GT

SUBJECT: PREMIER'S VIEWS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UK-
GUATEMALA DISPUTE

1. I CALLED ON PREMIER PRICE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR CONSULTATION
TO HEAR WHAT HE HAD TO SAY CONCERNING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UK-
GUATEMALA DISPUTE.

2. GOB VIEWS ON UN RESOLUTION - PREMIER SAID GOB HAD NOT YET
ARRIVED AT ANY DEFINITE VIEWS ON NATURE OF RESOLUTION GOB WOULD
SEEK IN UNGA AND WOULD NOT TRY TO DO SO UNTIL RECEIPT OF SHOMAN'S
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT SEEMED POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE.
HE SAID HE HOPED TO GET STRONGEST RESOLUTION OBTAINABLE. IN
REPLY TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE SAW ANY POSSIBILITY THAT A
CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTION MIGHT HAVE OTHER THAN BENEFICIAL EFFECT
ON CHANCES OF EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT HE SAID HIS ONLY THOUGHT WAS
THAT A STRONG RESOLUTION WOULD BE BETTER THAN A WEAK ONE. HE
THOUGHT MINISTER ROGERS AND/OR AMBASSADOR COURTENAY WOULD BE
GOING TO NEW YORK WHEN THE TIME WAS RIPE AND THAT EVENTUALLY
HE MIGHT GO HIMSELF.

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3. LONG RANGE GOB STRATEGY - AS TO WHAT GOB'S NEXT STEP WOULD

BE, ASSUMING RESOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO GOB WERE ADOPTED, HE SAID NEITHER HE NOR HIS ADVISORS HAD EVEN BEGUN TO SORT OUT THEIR THINKING ON THIS. PRESENT STATE OF PLANNING WAS BEST DESCRIBED BY PROVERB "HE TRAVELS FARTHEST WHO KNOWS NOT WHERE HE GOES." HE SPECULATED THAT ONCE BELIZE INDEPENDENCE ASPIRATIONS ARE ENDORSED BY UN, CHANCES OF GETTING AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE GUARANTEE FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENHANCED. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY GUATEMALANS (VIA UK) FOR ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD ACQUIESCE IN CONTINUATION OF UK-GOG TALKS AFTER UNGA SESSION BUT THAT HE HAD REFUSED TO GIVE ANY SUCH ASSURANCE.

4. GUATEMALAN BUILDUP OF BORDER TROOPS - PREMIER ASKED ME WHETHER I WAS AWARE OF BUILDUP OF GUATEMALAN TROOPS ON BORDER. I ACKNOWLEDGED HAVING HEARD RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT. HE SAID TOTAL FORCE AT MELCHOR DE MENCORS AND POLVERA HAD GROWN FROM EIGHTY TO FOUR HUNDRED.

5. GUATEMALA'S ACQUISITION AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL - PREMIER SAID HE HAD BEEN READING RECENT BIOGRAPHY OF NASSER BY EDITOR OF EL AHRAH AND HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY AUTHOR'S ACCOUNT OF HOW US GOVERNMENT HAD COVERTLY SUPPLIED FUNDS TO ISRAEL FOR PURCHASE OF US ARMS TO DISGUISE AN OUTRIGHT GIFT AS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION; THE THOUGHT HAD OCCURRED TO HIM THAT SOME SUCH ARRANGEMENT MIGHT LIE BEHIND GUATEMALAN ACQUISITION OF ARAVA TROOP CARRYING AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL. I ASSURED PREMIER WE HAD HAD NO INKLING OF GUATEMALAN PLAN TO ACQUIRE ARAVAS AND HAD, IN FACT, LEARNED OF DEAL ONLY AFTER IT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED AND THEN, UNHAPPILY, ONLY BY INADVERTANCE RATHER THAN FROM OFFICIAL GOG SOURCES. I OBSERVED TO PREMIER THAT HIS QUESTION HAD RATHER SHOCKED ME BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO INDICATE A FUNDAMENTAL MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GUATEMALA. I EMPHASIZED THAT THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT WE HAD SUPPLIED GUATEMALA WAS FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES ONLY, THAT THIS LIMITATION HAD ALWAYS BEEN STIPULATED TO GOG IN SALES AGREEMENTS AND THAT WE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE USE OR THREAT TO USE SUCH EQUIPMENT AGAINST BELIZE. AS REGARDS THE ARAVAS, I NOTED THAT WE HAD NO CONTROL OVER WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS GUATEMALANS MIGHT DECIDE TO BUY ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP FOR THEM TO APPRISE US OF PLANS TO ACQUIRE AN ENTIRE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM SUCH AS THE ARAVAS
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WERE. I OPINED THAT THE FACT THAT THEY DID NOT DO SO PROBABLY INDICATED THEY SUSPECTED - IF SO, QUITE CORRECTLY - THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE VIEWED THIS ACQUISITION WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM.

6. SUBMISSION TO ICJ - QUESTION OF JURIDICAL MERITS BELIZEAN CASE CAME UP BUT PREMIER DID NOT THINK THIS WAS OF MUCH RELEVANCE. HE SAW NO ROLE FOR THE ICJ IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE.
GAWF

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